

Oral Health and School Readiness

Healthy Children Are Ready to Learn

Tooth decay or cavities is the most common chronic childhood disease, and it is preventable.



California children miss 874,000 days of school each year due to dental problems.

Source: California 2017 Status of Oral Health in California: Oral Disease Burden and Prevention

IMPACT ON SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Of over 39,000 children entering school, only **11,630** submitted proof of an oral health assessment.

Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) had untreated tooth decay.



Source: 2021-2022 KOHA data

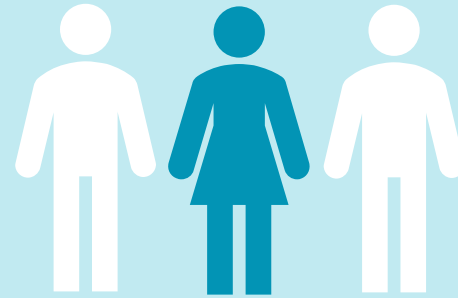
Help children be ready to learn! Children entering school for the first time need an oral health assessment 12 months before starting school or by May 31st of their first year.



IN LA MESA-SPRING VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Of over 1,400 children entering school, **614** submitted proof of an oral health assessment:

- **Nearly 1 in 3 (31%)** had untreated decay.



Source: 2021-2022 KOHA data

You Can Make a Difference

Oral health is an integral part of the overall health of children. Schools play an active role in reducing dental disease in children through raising awareness of the importance of oral health and helping connect children to a dental home.

PROMOTE

Promote completion of an oral health assessment for children entering school.

EDUCATE

Educate students, parents, and staff about the importance of oral health.

PROVIDE

Provide preventive services at your school and refer children for care in your community.

The County of San Diego Oral Health Program
can support schools and districts!

For more information, call 619-692-8858 or visit:

[County of San Diego - Oral Health Program](#)

